

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/895,331
Amendment filed February 6, 2006
Reply to OA dated October 13, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6-16 are pending in this application. The present amendment cancels claims 6-10 and 14-16 without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 11-13 will be pending. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the rejections are respectfully requested.

No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment, which only cancels certain claims.

Claims 8, 9, 14, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takeda (JP2000108289). (Office Action paragraph no. 2)

The rejection of claims 8, 9, 14 and 16 is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 10-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda (JP2000-108289) in view of Shimizu (6,218,073) and Anderson (3,684,637). (Office paragraphs no. 4-8)

The rejection of claims 10 and 15 is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims without prejudice or disclaimer. The rejections of claims 1 and 11-13 is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Applicant submits that no *prima facie* case of obviousness can be made using the cited references. Specifically, the combination of the three references cannot provide the following three

specific characteristics of the present invention of base claim 1 or 11:

(i) An aqueous dry laminate adhesive composition used for lamination for forming the artificial leather, which comprises: a water-borne polyurethane resin (A) having a weight-average molecular weight ranging from 2,000 to 200,000, wherein the resin has a hydrophilic group and two or more groups containing active hydrogen atoms, wherein the two or more groups are reactive with isocyanate groups and are selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group, a hydroxyl group, and an amino group; a crosslinking agent (B) which is a polyisocyanate compound; a thickener (C) which is an association polymer type surface active agent; and a colorant (D) which is a water-dispersible pigment in which a pigment's surface is coated with a water-dispersible resin.

(ii) A content of the hydrophilic groups in the water-borne polyurethane resin (A), wherein the content is at least 0.005 to 0.2 equivalent per 100 parts by weight of the finally obtained polyurethane resin.

(iii) A colorant (D) which is a water-dispersible pigment in which a pigment's surface is coated with a water-dispersible resin.

First of all, Takeda does not disclose that a colorant (D), which is a water-dispersible pigment wherein a pigment's surface is coated with a water-dispersible resin, is included. Furthermore, Takeda does not include any disclosure which can provide a motivation for combining the water-borne polyurethane resin (A), the crosslinking agent (B), the thickener (C), and the colorant (D).

Regarding the Anderson reference, Anderson merely describes that a colorant was added to the top surface layer (column 9, lines 44 to 50). This appears to be a typical coloring of the top

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surface layer for appearance by using a colorant. Unlike the present invention, Anderson does not disclose that a colorant is added to an adhesive for a dry laminate and it is used for forming a layer which is provided on the counter surface of a skin layer. That is, Anderson does not disclose that an adhesive including a colorant is used for a dry laminate to prepare an adhesive layer between a skin layer and a base fabric material.

That is, there is no suggestion in the reference for that the characteristic of the present invention that the specific colorant (D) is added to an adhesive used for a dry laminate.

Shimizu is cited by the Examiner for teaching coating black pigments for dispersion in polyurethane binders with a water dispersible polyurethane. However, the Shimizu reference relates to a thermo-sensitive composition, a planographic printing plate and a production method thereof. Such an invention does not correspond at all to a technical field of the present invention, wherein an aqueous dry laminate adhesive is used for forming artificial leather. Applicant submits that there is no suggestion or motivation for a person with ordinary skill in the art to use the Shimizu reference to achieve the present invention.

Applicant therefore submits that pending claims 1 and 11-13 are not obvious over Takeda (JP2000-108289), Shimizu (6,218,073) and Anderson (3,684,637), taken separately or in combination.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

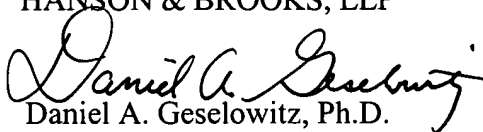
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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of time

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